



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 1, 2024

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports 

**SUBJECT:** ARP ESSER Communities In Schools Grant Opportunity

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in partnership with Communities In Schools of Michigan, Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo, and Communities in Schools of Northwest Michigan (the three CIS affiliates in Michigan), announces an important grant opportunity. CIS places full-time student support coordinators in each partner school building, to connect students and families with supportive adults and community resources. CIS staff use trauma-informed practices, restorative practices, and social-emotional learning strategies to focus on wrap-around supports targeting academic achievement, learning loss, absenteeism, and graduation rates. This grant aligns with [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#) goal 2, to improve early literacy achievement, and goal 5, to increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school.

The American Rescue Plan, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) CIS grant is a competitive opportunity open to eligible local education agencies, both traditional public school districts and public school academies, to support the first year of a three-year partnership with Communities In Schools (Scaling Option) or to enhance existing CIS partnerships (Enhanced Option) by adding a new program or initiative or increasing staffing in an existing CIS partnership school to current programming. The competitive process will prioritize the Scaling Option and school location based on proximity to existing CIS affiliate regions.

MDE and CIS affiliates in Michigan are working together to bring schools this unique grant opportunity to braid funding in support of students and schools. MDE will provide limited funding from ARP ESSER administrative funds for the first year to support installation of the Scaling Option to implement the CIS Integrated Student Support Model. The local district contributions of approximately \$100,000 per school partner must support the remaining two years of the 3-year commitment and can be

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paid over two or three years. CIS affiliates in Michigan will provide the remaining 50% of funds for the 3-year partnership as a funding match. The total cost of programming for three years is \$323,000 per school.

For the enhanced option, current CIS school partnerships are also provided the opportunity to apply for the competitive grant to add a new program, initiative or staffing to existing CIS programming. The awarded ARP ESSER CIS enhanced option competitive grants will fully fund the implementation of the additional supports that are approved through September 30, 2024.

Information regarding the CIS grant, including application details, funding amounts, and grant requirements, will be available on the MDE Office of Educational Supports [website](#) beginning Monday, February 5, 2024. The grant application opens in NexSys on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, and is due Friday, February 16, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

Questions regarding this grant may be emailed to Michelle Williams at [OESSpecialPopulations@michigan.gov](mailto:OESSpecialPopulations@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments